



**Board of Selectmen Agenda  
Municipal Center Resource Room  
Tuesday, June 18, 2024  
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Chairman Announcements ~ (2) Exceptional Employee Recognitions
4. Citizen's Forum
5. BOS Goals – Possible Votes
6. One Day Entertainment License for “Picnic at the Park / Martin Road” – Possible Votes
7. Douglas Pickleball Club / Outside Basketball Court Fence Proposal – Possible Votes
8. Discussion with Douglas Common Preservation Society
9. Discussion with Resident of 301 NW Main Street
10. Chapter 61A / 34 Hemlock Street – Possible Votes
11. Fire Department Donation Account / Request for Drone – Possible Votes
12. Grant Acceptance – Possible Votes
  - a. FD - EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant)
  - b. Fire SAFE & SR SAFE Grants
13. Review & Approve Special Election Ballot Language – Possible Votes
14. EV Charging Rate Policy / 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
15. Review Annual Reappointments – Possible Votes
16. Meeting Minutes – Possible Votes
17. Property & Casualty Insurance Update – Possible Votes
18. Town Administrator's Report
  - a. MSHG Surplus Update
19. Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting
20. Executive Session
  - a. Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(6), To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. **Interest in Real Property – Riedell Road**
21. Adjournment

Douglas Cable is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

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Meeting ID: 829 9601 8432

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For information about the Zoom platform, including how-to videos and forms for requesting a Zoom meeting:

<https://douglas-ma.gov/530/Remote-Meetings>

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024  
MEETING MINUTES**

Attendance: Vice Chair Mike Fitzpatrick, Ross Smith, Hal Davis, Les Stevens, Matthew Wojcik Town Administrator, and Lisa Freeman Executive Assistant

Absent: Chair Tim Bonin (excused)

1. Call to Order: Mike Fitzpatrick called the meeting to order at 7 pm.
2. (0:05 TS) Pledge of Allegiance
3. (0:44 TS) Chairman's Announcements: Mr. Fitzpatrick acknowledged the passing of a former Selectman and chairman, Mike Hughes's wife Marilyn, and requested a moment of silence. Recognition of exceptional employees: Jackie Briggs from the Building Department; Mr. Fitzpatrick read a memo from Ken Frasier the Building Inspector and from Jennifer Couture a coworker. TA Wojcik also spoke on the exceptional service Jackie Briggs brings to the town hall. The second employee recognition is for Jen Couture Principal Clerk in the Community Development Department; a memo was read from Matt Benoit Community Development Director about her outstanding work while he was out on leave, and TA Wojcik spoke about the exceptional work Jen Couture does for the town as well.
4. (8:05 TS) Citizens Forum: NONE
5. (8:15 TS) Board of Selectman's Goals – Possible votes  
Chairman Bonin asked to have this put on the agenda, in his absence it was requested to be put onto the next meeting agenda.
6. (9:10 TS) One Day Entertainment License for "Picnic at the Park/Martin Road" – Possible votes  
(9:30 TS) Motion to approve the one day entertainment license for the "Picnic in the Park" on Martin Road made by Hal Davis, seconded by Les Stevens. The vote passed unanimously.
7. (10:00 TS) Douglas Pickleball Club/Outside Basketball Fence Proposal – Possible votes  
Member Pam Schwartz (343 SE Main St.) shared plans for the Board to review. The Recreation Commission approved the proposal already, and she spoke about the proposal and that they would be raising the funds for this project. They discussed the height and type of fence at length. TA Wojcik spoke about the laws for getting this work done including prevailing wage and general liability insurance for the contractor and procurement laws.  
(19:20 TS) Motion to approve the fence proposal by the Douglas Pickleball Club of a black vinyl coated chain link fence 4 feet high made by Hal Davis, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
8. (20:05 TS) Discussion with Douglas Common Preservation Society – There was discussion about whether Selectman Hal Davis should recuse himself from the discussion because he was previously part of the corporation. BettyAnn McCallum (85 SW Main St.) and Lynn Paresky (76 NW Main St.) stated that the question arose how a non-town appointed committee got involved with the common. Ms. McCallum spoke about how in 1995 for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town the group raised money to do the parade and what they provided and built on the common including the gazebo and the lawn and the light posts and the flowers on the hill and the benches. This was all done with volunteers and donations and money raised. Ms. Paresky stated that they recently became a 501c3 nonprofit and run strictly by volunteers and on donations only. She went over what they have recently done and annual projects and future projects. They discussed the means of how to show the donators and sponsors, and also discussed liability insurance and looking into getting that for the society. They will put this on the next agenda for a vote.

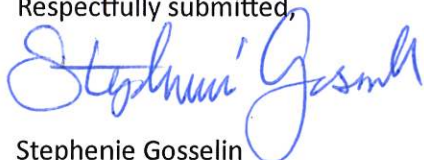


9. (55:10 TS) Discussion with Resident of 301 NW Main Street – Valerie Fulginiti explained the issues she has had on her property and what needed to be done and what she has had done already to fix the water issues flowing onto the road from her property. They discussed at length what needs to be done for the storm water management off her property and what the BOS needs to determine. They will put this on the next agenda while Matt Benoit reaches out the Watershed district about the water going into the lake.
10. (1:09:25 TS) Chapter 61A / 34 Hemlock Street – Possible votes  
The Open Space Committee voted unanimously today not to pass over the right of first refusal and to seek out an appraisal on the property before making a decision. They wanted to understand the value before they passed over it and the town pays for the appraisal.  
(1:12:35 TS) Motion to not exercise the towns first right of refusal in the interest of 34 Hemlock Street, made by Hal Davis, seconded by Les Stevens. The vote passed unanimously.
11. (1:13:45 TS) Fire Department Donation Account / Request for Drone – Possible votes  
Fire Chief John Furno and Deputy Chief Kelly Manning are requesting to use the fire donation account to supplement the funding of various projects and initiatives otherwise not accounted for in the department budget. The balance in the donation account is currently \$3,960., and they discussed the uses of the drone and the type of drone they will looking into.  
(1:20:50 TS) Motion to authorize the fire department to use the fire donation account to supplement funding for various projects and initiatives otherwise not accounted for in the departments operating budget at the discretion of Chief Furno made by Ross Smith, seconded by Hal Davis. The vote passed unanimously.
12. (1:21:25 TS) Grant Acceptance – Possible votes
  - a. Fire Department – EMPG (Emergency Management Performance Grant) – they were awarded \$2,900. towards the purchase of a drone
  - b. Fire SAFE & SR SAFE Grants – Chief Manning explained what these grants are utilized for and the amounts were \$2,200. SR SAFE and \$4,700. Student SAFE.  
(1:24:00 TS) Motion to accept the Emergency Management Performance grant in the amount of \$2,900, the Students Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) grant for \$4,700, and the SR SAFE for \$2,200, made by Ross Smith, seconded by Les Stevens. The vote passed unanimously.
13. (1:25:05 TS) Review & Approve Special Election Ballot Language – Possible votes  
This is for the Blackstone Valley Tech School roof and HVAC project. The language from Bond Counsel and reviewed by Town Counsel on the proposed ballot was ready out loud. TA Wojcik stated that this vote is not whether not this project will be approved, this vote is for the town of Douglas residents to decide whether this debt issue will be handled in the operating budget or handled as debt exclusion outside of the operating budget. TA Wojcik explained the difference between the two options of how the debt will be handled.  
(1:29:35 TS) Motion to approve the special election ballot language made by Ross Smith, seconded by Hal Davis. The vote passed unanimously.
14. (1:29:55 TS) EV Charging Rate Policy 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
The chargers were installed, and they are making provisions to set up the software and turn the chargers on. There have been no changes to the language of the policy since the first reading.
15. (1:31:35 TS) Review Annual Reappointments – Possible votes  
Mr. Fitzpatrick recused himself from the discussion. Lisa Freeman spoke about who she is waiting to hear back from and otherwise everyone would like to be reappointed.  
(1:34:50 TS) Motion to appoint all the individuals listed on the presentation to the Board made by Hal Davis, seconded Les Stevens. The vote passed unanimously.

**APPROVED  
JULY 16, 2024**

16. (1:37:35 TS) Review Meeting Minutes – Possible votes  
(1:38:45 TS) Motion to accept the BOS meeting minutes for May 28, 2024, as written made by Ross Smith, seconded by Hal Davis. The vote passed unanimously.  
(1:40:00 TS) Motion to approve the June 4, 2024, meeting minutes as written made by Les Stevens, seconded by Hal Davis. The vote passed unanimously.
17. (1:40:10 TS) Property & Casualty Insurance Update – Possible votes  
TA Wojcik talked about a new rep from a new firm who approached him about the town's insurance, and he is putting it out to see if there will be anything better than what MIIA, the current company is providing for the cost.  
(1:46:05 TS) Motion to allow the Town Administrator to pursue the prospects of entertaining other insurance companies made by Les Stevens, seconded by Ross Smith. The vote passed unanimously.
18. (1:46:25 TS) Town Administrator's Report  
The bids were closed on the DPS security system and the lowest bid was substantially over the full amount of funds that have been approved through ARPA and from town meeting. This is now in the school committees' hands to decide how they want to proceed. TA Wojcik spoke about the school and town bargaining being available for the public to view.  
a. (1:55:25 TS) MSHG Surplus Update – The board was presented with Douglas' request for 1 million dollars and in TA Wojcik's opinion the group has strayed from the original vision of what the group was to be and provide for the members. He will be working with legal counsel to figure out a deal that works for both Douglas and MSHG. If the other members of the MSHG board cannot do a midyear rate adjustment to pick up their funding ratios above their losses, then Douglas needs to get out the group.  
The repaving of Gilboa and North St is pretty much finished and came out fantastic. There will be a surge of bids, projects, and contracts July 1<sup>st</sup> when the new fiscal year starts.
19. (2:04:05 TS) Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting. NONE
20. (2:04:15 TS) Executive Session  
(2:04:20 TS) Motion to enter into executive session for the interest in real property for Riedell Road and reconvene in open session for the sole purpose of adjournment, made by Ross Smith, seconded by Hal Davis. Roll call vote – Les Stevens, Hal Davis, Mike Fitzpatrick and Ross Smith all in favor.
21. Adjournment: Mr. Smith made a motion at 9:16 pm to leave executive session and return to regular session for the sole purpose of adjournment, Mr. Davis seconded the motion, all in favor. Roll call vote – Stevens – aye, Davis – aye, Smith – aye, Fitzpatrick – aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephenie Gosselin  
Recording Secretary